

Express Mail No. ER 930263946 US

Docket No. 21298 US (C038435/0183236)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ACTING AS
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) UNDER THE PATENT
COOPERATION TREATY CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371

In re International Application of:)
Tatsuo HOSHINO *et al.*)
Based on Int'l Application No.: PCT/EP2003/003742) Examiner: Not yet assigned
International Filing Date: 10 April 2003) Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Filed: Herewith)
For: **PROCESS FOR PRODUCING**)
CAROTENOIDS)

New York, NY
December 20, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the amendment set forth below. Because this Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the above-identified application, no fee is believed due. If, however, a fee is due, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 02-4467. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION begin on page 3 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 8 of this paper.